

MEMORIAL OF J. W. NYE.

JANUARY 5, 1847.

Referred to the Committee of Claims.

MARCH 1, 1847.

The committee ask to be discharged, and that the memorial, and papers accompanying the same, be laid upon the table and printed.

*To the members of the House of Representatives of the United States :*

The memorial of the undersigned respectfully sheweth : That on or about the 1st of January, 1844, he entered into a contract with the House of Representatives, through their agent, John M. Johnson, postmaster to said House, (who was duly authorized to make said contract,) to furnish for the use of said House, during the 28th Congress, three horses and carryalls ; also to do all the hauling of boxes, and other articles, that might be wanted for said Congress. After this contract was duly executed by the respective parties, it was by the House referred to the Committee of Accounts for their examination and approval, who, after due examination, unanimously approved the same. Your memorialist purchased for that work four horses, at \$425, and three carryalls and harness for \$300. Over the horses and carryalls he had no management or control, except to feed them, and keep them in readiness at all times for the use the House. These horses were driven, with the exception of one, in the most abusive manner ; so much so, that in less than three weeks *three* of them were ruined so as to be unfit for business, and the carryalls and harness very much injured. Your memorialist then purchased three other horses, at \$225. He repeatedly remonstrated with Mr. Johnson, both verbally and in writing, as to the abusive and destructive manner in which his messengers, and others allowed by them to drive, were using this property ; to which, as far as he could learn, Mr. Johnson never paid the *least* attention. In addition to the seven horses purchased for that work, your memorialist was frequently compelled to hire horses to take the place of those run down on the work. Your memorialist had given offence to Johnson by refusing to give up to a colored man what he considered the best part of the contract ; and it appeared to him to be the determination of Johnson to break him down, or compel him to relinquish the contract ; but finding this mode ineffectual, (for as soon as any was run down, another, and the best that could be found in the city, was immediately put on,) without any fault or neglect on the part of your memorialist, and in violation of a sealed contract approved by the House, he gave the contract to others, depriving your memorialist of his just and *legal* rights ; and not content with bringing distress and misery, in a pecuniary point of view, on himself and family, (at that time crushed down by severe sickness,) Johnson endeavored, by wilful falsehood and slander, to destroy your memorialist's character and reputation. One charge he made to the Committee

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of Accounts, which was branded at the time as a *wilful lie* of his *own* make, and which was proved in his presence to be *false*, he again reiterated to a respectable citizen of this place, in the presence of members of Congress within the Capitol. In consequence of the violation of this contract on the part of an officer of your House, your memorialist has had property that cost him over \$1,000 sold under the hammer for less than \$400, and himself and family, in time of extreme sickness, deprived of *every* means of support; and at the same time due him from your honorable body, according to the terms of a solemn contract which had never been violated on his part, more than \$1,000.

But notwithstanding himself and family have suffered in consequence of this violation, the *severest* privation in the want of decent or even comfortable clothing, and in food sufficient to keep off the cravings of hunger; yet this is nothing to what they have suffered in the loss of character and reputation that he has sustained by the slanders uttered against him by this officer of your House; and he now makes a solemn appeal to *each* and *every* one of you—to your sense of *honor*; to your sense of *justice*; to your sense of *common honesty*—whether you will allow a man whom your suffrages have raised to an honorable and lucrative station in your House to take advantage of that station to destroy the character and reputation of an American citizen, however humble, without censure or rebuke, or without giving that citizen a chance to be heard in his own defence.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. NYE.

Articles of agreement made and concluded this fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, between John M. Johnson, postmaster of the House of Representatives, of the first part, and J. W. Nye of the second part, witnesseth:

That for and in consideration of the stipulations hereinafter mentioned, the said party of the second part doth hereby covenant and agree, and by these presents doth bind himself, his heirs, and assigns, unto the said party of the first part, or his successor in office, to furnish for the use of the House of Representatives, during the remainder of the twenty-eighth Congress, three good horses and three good one-horse carriages, to be approved of by the said party of the first part, and to keep them in good order for business at all times, subject to all orders and control of the said party of the first part; to take charge of the stables and stable office belonging to the House of Representatives, and to keep them in good order; also to haul all the boxes and other articles which may be wanted by or for the House of Representatives; all of the above to be subject to the control of the said party of the first part.

And the said party of the first part doth hereby covenant and agree to give the said party of the second part the charge and control of the stables and stable office belonging to the House of Representatives; also the furnishing three horses and three one-horse carriages for the use of the House of Representatives, and hauling all the boxes and other articles for the use of the House of Representatives, for the remainder of the twenty-eighth Congress, and to pay unto the said party of the second part one dol-

lar and seventy cents per day for the use of each horse and carriage, or the same paid therefor during the twenty-seventh Congress; also the same price for the boxes, and other articles, as were paid for the same during the last Congress. And for the faithful performance of the foregoing stipulations, the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this fifteenth day of January, 1844.

JNO. M. JOHNSON, *Postmaster.*

J. W. NYE.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of

E. W. SMALLWOOD.

### *Testimony.*

Hon. General McDowell's testimony:

Was chairman of Committee of Accounts the 1st session of the 28th Congress. The contract between Nye and Johnson for furnishing horses and carryalls, and doing the hauling for the House for the 28th Congress, was by the House referred to the Committee of Accounts for their examination and approval; who, after a careful examination, unanimously approved the same, as conformable to the law authorizing the postmaster to contract with some person for this work. Noticed horses' shoulders much injured; whether from badness of harness or bad driving, cannot say. Never heard Mr. Johnson complain of any deficiency in the property whilst I acted as chairman, that I recollect of.

I believe the above to be a correct transcript of the testimony given by me before the Committee of Accounts, during the 28th Congress, to the best of my recollection.

J. J. McDOWELL.

Mr. Hill sworn:

Was assistant postmaster to the House of Representatives during the 1st session of the 28th Congress. Mr. Nye rendered essential service in the office during the first month. He, and his son also, assisted the messengers during the first month, in carrying the mail and in learning the messengers their routes, Mr. Johnson and his messengers being entirely unacquainted with the business. His son continued to assist whenever wanted, during the session. Never heard any complaint from Mr. Johnson, or any of his messengers, of Mr. Nye, or any of the property, until Mr. Nye complained of the abusive and destructive manner in which they were using the property. Mr. Nye frequently complained to Mr. Johnson of the abusive and destructive manner in which his property was used, both verbally and in writing; to any of which, as far as he had any knowledge, Mr. Johnson never paid the least attention. Always found Mr. Nye very kind and accommodating in rendering us any assistance—marking boxes, or any thing we might want of him. Always found a horse and cart at the stables, and a person ready to drive, whenever wanted to do the hauling. Never heard Mr. Nye use any disrespectful language to Mr. Johnson, or any one in the office, or to any other person, until the chairman of the Committee of Accounts called on Mr. Johnson and informed him that the hauling be-

longed to Mr. Nye, and he must have it. Mr. Johnson preferred to let John Lee do it. Never heard Mr. Johnson object to Lee's doing it.

*Cross examined.* Some time in the summer called on Mr. Nye to buy out his contract, believing he would lose it if he did not sell out; confident Johnson would deprive him of it if he could. Heard Johnson say he would take it from him if he could; that Nye should have nothing to do about the Capitol if he could prevent it; gave no reason why. Mr. Nye made great complaint against the driving of one William Sprigg; that he had ruined a number of horses for him during the session. Sprigg was not in the employment of the House, but drove off and on for the messengers during the session. Never knew of Mr. Nye receiving or asking any compensation for his own or son's services.

MICHAEL HILL.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, *District of Columbia*, ss:

On this twelfth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, personally appeared before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, Michael Hill, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that the foregoing statements are just and true, and, he believes, a true transcript of the testimony given by him before the Committee of Accounts during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

HENRY HOWISON, J. P. [SEAL.]

Mr. A. F. Kimmell sworn:

Let Mr. Nye have three fine splendid bay horses for the use of the House of Representatives; worth \$300 in this market at that season of the year. After being worked before the carryalls some eight or ten days, they came back to the stables very much injured: one was crippled, the other two very much galled, so as to be unfit for business. We then let Mr. Nye have a sorrel horse called Fox—an excellent horse for business—and two gray Canadian ponies. These six horses were in high order, and excellent horses for business. Let Mr. Nye have two carryalls and two sets of harness. The carryalls were worth \$100 each. One had been used some; the other was entirely new. They were as good as we could obtain in the city. The harness cost \$25 each—had been used some, but was good substantial harness—never galled our horses. After these horses had been very much injured, we let Mr. Nye have two more during the session—one a large, long-bodied bay horse, in fine order, and a good horse for business, worth from \$75 to \$80; the other a fine splendid gray horse, called Peacock, for \$125. In addition to these eight horses, Mr. Nye had two other horses which were used last session before the carryalls, which he bought of us the year before—sorrel horses, called John and Bill—good horses for business; at the commencement of the session they were in good working order. The stock they let Mr. Nye have for this work was worth over \$1,000. These horses were driven in a very cruel manner. No horses of ours could stand it, the way they were driven. They were driven on the gallop, with a free use of the whip: should not consider that either horses, carryalls, or harness could stand such driving any length of time; should consider horses liable, from half a day's driving as he saw them driven, to be entirely ruined. To be driven a short distance as they were driven,



and then standing in the cold, should not wonder next morning to find them dead. Have known Mr. Nye for a number of years—have had dealings with him to a large amount; always found him honest and honorable as far he had the means to do with; never knew him guilty of a dishonorable act. Mr. Nye had a horse, carryall, and harness, in good condition, through the vacation of Congress. Let Mr. Nye have two bob-tailed bay horses and one large sorrel horse, this session, to use before the carryalls; in high order, and good horses for business.

A. F. KIMMELL.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, *District of Columbia, ss :*

On this 14th day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared A. F. Kimmell, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that the above statements are just and true, and, he believes, a correct transcript of the testimony given by him before the Committee of Accounts during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress; and furthermore states that during the two years since this contract was taken from Mr. Nye, he and his family have suffered severely for a bare subsistence; that, after the adjournment of the last Congress, the property obtained by Nye for this work, not destroyed by the messengers, was sold for something like one-fourth of what the whole cost when put on the work.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

HENRY HOWISON, J. P. [SEAL.]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *Washington county, to wit :*

On this 31st day of January, 1845, before me the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Edwin Walker, of the firm of Walker & Kimmell; and, after being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: That he, the said Walker, furnished Mr. J. W. Nye, in the month of January, in the year 1844, three bay horses for the use of the House of Representatives, and to carry the mails thereof through the city. The horses were good, sound, solid, and prime horses—worth \$100 each at that season of the year. Some six or or eight days after Mr. Nye got of me the horses, one of them became lame, and the others were so injured that they became unfit for service. Mr. Nye then got three other horses from me—two Canadian ponies, gray, and one sorrel horse called Fox. They were all good horses. The horse Fox was a first rate horse for work, and the other two were exceeding tough, and competent to stand almost any kind of work. Two other horses Mr. Nye got from me the year preceding, called Bill and John, were exceeding good horses. John was of a very high life; the other was a very good driving horse. Afterwards Mr. Nye got from me another horse called Nick-of-the-woods—a large bay horse, and an excellent good horse; very tough. All of the aforesaid horses were in excellent good order. I furnished Mr. Nye for the aforesaid employment two carryalls and two sets of single harness, all of which was in first rate order. One of the carryalls was new, and cost \$100; the other had been used but a short time, and nearly as good as new. I considered them worth one hundred dollars each. The harness was nearly new. The way that I frequently saw the horses and carryalls driven, it was impossible for either to stand such usage but a short time. I further state

that horses drove as those were for a day, or half a day, may be as completely ruined as longer driving, or injured so that they will not be fit for use for a long time, if ever. I further state that I have known Mr. Nye for a number of years, and always have found him to be a man disposed to what I considered to be right. I have had very considerable dealings with Mr. Nye, and have found him always correct in his transactions with me, and have never known him guilty of a dishonorable act.

EDWIN WALKER.

Subscribed and sworn before me, the day and year hereinbefore written.

J. H. GODDARD, J. P.

Mr. Bowen sworn :

Furnished Mr. Nye his feed for his horses last session, after he obtained his contract for furnishing horses and carryalls for the use of the House. Received his pay punctually. At one time Mr. Nye let him have ten dollars in advance ; never warranted him. Mr. Nye owes him a very little now, but he has no fear but what he will get it. Has frequently seen William Sprigg drive those horses and carryalls ; has frequently seen him beat them unmercifully, both last session and this, and drive them on a full gallop, and run them under the whip all the way up Capitol hill. Has frequently seen small boys driving them ; frequently seen the one driven to Georgetown driven on a full jump, with a number of persons in the wagon. They were in the habit of beating the horse on this route with a large stick, leaving large wales or welts on him ; in consequence of which, the man who took care of him put a small nail or brad into the end of the whip to drive him with, thinking it less cruel than beating him with a club. Saw the horses and carryalls every day ; saw nothing out of order with the carryalls or harness ; considered them excellent, and abundantly sufficient for the business. The sorrel horses were in good working order ; the others were in *high* order ; the ponies have never been poor since they have been in Washington. The horses for the use of the House were taken good care of, and fed as much as they could eat. When Mr. Nye drew his first month's pay, I saw him give Mr. Howell some money for the use of a horse and carryall a few days, and request him to call and settle with him, and he would pay him in full.

JAMES A. BOWEN.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *Washington county, ss :*

On this thirteenth day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared James A. Bowen, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelry of Almighty God, depose and saith that the foregoing statements are just and true, and, he believes, a true transcript of the testimony given by him before the Committee of Accounts during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

HENRY HOWISON, J. P. [SEAL.]

Mr. Batson sworn :

Lived with Mr. Nye during the fall and winter. The Saturday before the meeting of Congress, the present session, Mr. Nye received a notice from Mr. Johnson to have three horses and carryalls at the Capitol early on Monday morning. Mr. Nye and myself immediately went to work to see that the

carryalls and harness were in good order; on two of the carryalls we put two coats of paint on the canvass of each; and on Monday morning I helped to take them to the Capitol. We took two Canadian ponies and a high-spirited sorrel horse (all three in high order) to the Capitol, and three carryalls and harness to each—all in good order for business. The carryalls were all three good, strong, substantial carryalls, and the harness all in good order, and I consider them amply sufficient for the business. About three o'clock, p. m., the sorrel horse was sent home with the shafts broken. We immediately put another pair of shafts on, and sent back the carryall, and another large sorrel horse, in good order and a good horse for business; I should consider him worth \$75; he was continued on one week, and then a large bay horse was obtained from Walker & Kimmell, in high order, which was soon run down, and then a fine splendid bay horse called Charley put on; he was in high order; I have driven him before a carryall and buggy, and he worked kind and well; I never saw a more fine, splendid horse in the District. The third day he was sent home unfit for business; his shoulders very much injured. Another bay bob-tailed horse was then obtained from Walker & Kimmell; he was as fine, excellent a horse as I ever saw, and was continued on until the property was dismissed; he was used about two weeks. Mr. Nye being sick, I used to help Norman to take care of them, and take them to the Capitol; they were taken up in good season, and the carryalls and harness always in good order when taken there in the morning. The horse used by Mr. Henry used to look as well when he came in at night as when he went out in the morning; the other two used to come in as wet as they could be, and appeared to have been severely driven until Sprigg was dismissed, and Sweeny took his place; after that, this one did not appear to be treated so bad. The one driven by Laphen *always* came in as wet as he could be, and very much fatigued. One carryall got an axletree broken; another carriage was immediately put in its place, and I put in a new axletree in a very short time; I also made four pair of new shafts for the carryalls, to keep in readiness should any more be broken. The inside of one carryall appeared damp after being out in a heavy rain; we immediately put on a heavy coat of paint, and I believe it has been perfectly dry ever since; the other two I believe were perfectly dry; the curtains of all three were whole and good; they were in good order during the recess, and during the present session. When the committee examined this property shortly after it was dismissed, they were all—horses, carryalls, and harness—in the same condition they were in when they were dismissed. After the property was dismissed, Mr. Nye refused to use the property himself, or let any one else, except for the service of the House; he kept them expressly for the service of the House, having them harnessed and sent to the Capitol, mornings, the same as before they were dismissed.

*Cross-examined.* The horses were cleaned and rubbed down, and their legs rubbed down every night; they were taken the best care of; they were fed as much as they *could* eat; their customary food was half a bushel of corn meal mixed with cut hay—a meal for three horses—with as much other hay as they would eat; or from twelve to fifteen large ears of corn each to a meal, with a plenty of hay. The harness was always hung up at night and taken good care of. Have been working for Mr. Nye, at the wheelwright business; he does not owe me much, if any. I should not consider the injury to the horses' shoulders caused by the fault of the har-

ness, but by the bad driving. I should consider the ponies worth from \$125 to \$150.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *Washington county*, ss :

On this twenty first day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally came J. W. Nye, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that the foregoing statements are just and true, as delivered by J. W. Batson, in his testimony before the Committee of Accounts, during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress, taken down at the time by him, the said J. W. Nye.

J. W. NYE.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

HENRY HOWISON, J. P. [SEAL.]

Andrew Rock sworn :

Commenced taking care of the horses doing the work at the Capitol the fore part of January, 1844 ; there were three carryalls, a cart, and four horses kept constantly for the use of the House ; the horses, with the exception of the one driven by Mr. Henry, were driven in a very abusive manner. They were in the habit of getting a number into the carryall ; one take the lines, another a whip or cudgel, and beat the horse unmercifully, and drive him at his utmost speed. Seeing one horse so much injured by beating with a large stick, he took a small brad and put it into the end of the whip-stock to prick him with, thinking it would not be so cruel as to beat him to death with a club ; this horse was a high-spirited, high-lifed horse—a sorrel horse called John, bought of Walker & Kimmell. The first day, in consequence of the beating, he ran away with Mr. Kendall, and broke the carryall ; he was in fine order. The horses and carryalls used to come in very late at night—frequently after twelve o'clock at night. William Sprigg drove a considerable share of the time during the session ; he used to come in frequently after twelve o'clock at night very much intoxicated—so drunk that he had to be carried home ; the horses used to be very much fatigued ; appeared to have been very hard driven ; we had to frequently change the horses on the back route ; no one could stand it but a short time ; some six or seven were used on that route during the session ; all excellent horses.

*Cross-examined.* A large gray horse Mr. Nye bought of the railroad company was blind with one eye, and when driven hard could not see much with either eye ; not used on this work except occasionally, to rest the others ; a large splendid gray horse called Peacock, bought of Walker & Kimmell, had two good eyes ; could see well ; died during the session ; two sets of the harness were right good ; the other not quite so good, but a very good harness ; with fair usage would have been amply sufficient for the business ; used to hang the harness up every night and take good care of it ; never heard any complaint of any carryall except the one on the back route—the Naylor carryall ; it was new at the commencement of the session ; considered it a good carryall ; one had been used a little ; the other was bran new ; the horses were cleaned and well rubbed down every night ; were well bedded and taken the best care of, and fed as much as they could eat at all times ; a horse and cart, and person, were at all times ready to do the hauling.

ANDREW ROCK.



WASHINGTON COUNTY, *District of Columbia*, ss :

On this ninth day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Andrew Rock, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that the foregoing statements are just and true, and, he believes, a true transcript of the testimony given by him before the Committee of Accounts, during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress. And furthermore, that he never received a letter or note from Mr. Johnson, by the hands of Mr. Kendall, to give to Mr. Nye.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

B. K. MORSELL, J. P. [SEAL.]

Norman W. Nye sworn :

Assisted some time last session in carrying the mail; horses first used, three fine bay horses; in about a week two of them got their shoulders badly injured so as to be unfit for business, and the other got lamed so that we were not able to use him any more; then got two Canadian ponies and a sorrel horse called Fox; in a few days Fox got injured so as to be unfit for use, and the ponies very much galled; the one driven on the back route used to be so tired, he would lie down and refuse to eat when he came in at night; no horse on that route could stand it long before he would have to be taken off and another put on; six or seven horses were used before the carryall on that route during the session; the sorrel horse called John, when first put on that route, was in fine order and high life, and, from a free use of the whip, ran away with Mr. Kendall the first day he drove him, and broke both shafts of the carryall; a large splendid horse called Peacock, driven some time on that route, died some time during the session; there were a horse and cart kept expressly for the service of the House, hauling boxes and other articles during the session, and a person ready to attend to it whenever called on; this session I used to go to the Capitol nearly every day (until the property was dismissed) to see if there was any hauling to be done; we kept a horse and cart all the time to do the hauling, and did it immediately when called on; one time Mr. Smallwood informed me that the harness needed a little fixing, which was immediately done; and I have no recollection of ever hearing any complaint about any of the harness at any other time; last session a number of times the horse on the back route, by being left standing late at night without being hitched, ran away and broke the carryall and harness; one time the horse and carryall were not found until the next day; whenever a carryall was broken last session or this, another carriage was immediately put in its place, and that repaired as quick as possible; never had any trouble in getting them repaired; the horse and carryall used by Mr. Robinson last summer was the Nailor carryall used on the back route, (and was the only one I ever heard any complaint of last session or this,) and the large sorrel horse called Bill, used the first week before the meeting of Congress this session, and a considerable time last session; the horse driven by Mr. Henry was not injured last session or this; the horses driven by William Sprigg and Mr. Laphen this session used to be very wet when they came in from work, and appeared as though they had been very severely driven; the horses used this session were the two Canadian ponies, the large sorrel horse Bill, and two bob-tailed bay horses, had of Walker & Kimmell, and a splendid bay horse called Charley; whenever a horse was run down another

was immediately put in his place, and as good as could be found in the city, until the others were fit for business; three or four of them we were never able to use more; the bay called Charley, complained of by Laphen and Johnson, I have driven before a hack, a buggy, a carryall, and a cart, and always found him to work well and kind in the harness in every situation; the horses, carryalls, and harness, when examined in the Capitol yard a few days ago, were the same that were in the service of the House at the time of their dismissal, and in the same condition as they were when they were dismissed.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, *District of Columbia*, ss :

On this fourteenth day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Norman W. Nye, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeseth and saith that the aforesaid statements are just and true, and, he believes, a true transcript of his testimony before the Committee of Accounts, during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress. And, furthermore, that he never heard any complaint from Laphen of the property, except the bay horse, or received any letter or note from Mr. Johnson, by the hands of Mr. Laphen, to give to his father; also that the sorrel horse John never got over his lameness so as to be used again, until he died the following year. And further saith, that after Mr. Johnson refused to let the aforesaid property perform the work according to the contract, they were expressly kept for the service of the House, without being used for any other purpose until after the adjournment of Congress, when all of those horses purchased for this work which were alive and of any value were sold at public auction to finish paying for them; that in consequence of being deprived of the avails of this contract, and the severe and long continued sickness of his father and the family, the whole family have suffered severely for the want of decent or comfortable clothing, and sufficient food to eat, and fire to keep them warm; that during the year the property was dismissed, his father had repeatedly to pawn the only decent coat he had, to procure food.

NORMAN W. NYE.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

B. K. MORSELL, J. P. [SEAL]

Mr. George Mattingly sworn :

Bought for Nye the last session, for the use of the House, a good, strong carryall for one hundred dollars, and a good set of harness, both new at the commencement of the session. The bay horses and Canadian were excellent horses, worked well in harness, and were as good as any man need ever sit behind. The two sorrel horses (Bill and John) were good, serviceable horses, and in good condition at the commencement of the session. From what he saw of the horses and carryalls last session, considered them *badly* treated. The bay horse Charley worked well before a buggy; the horses and carryalls were in good condition at the commencement of this session; considers the horses the best ever used for that work at the Capitol; considers one of them worth more than all three of Lee's now used; considers the carryalls and harness amply sufficient for the business; has no interest in the contract; holds the property as his until paid for; about \$190

ANDREW ROCK

behind; when that is paid, the property and what they earn is Nye's; he has no further claim on them.

GEO. MATTINGLY.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, *District of Columbia, ss:*

On this 9th day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared George Mattingly, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that the above statements are just and true, and, he believes, a true transcript of the testimony given by him before the Committee of Accounts during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

HENRY HOWISON, *J. P.* [SEAL.]

Mr. V. Willett sworn:

Walker & Kimmell let Nye have three bay horses for the use of the House—fine, excellent horses, as good as any man ever rode after; also a span of Canadian ponies—very excellent horses—worth \$150; also a sorrel horse called Fox, an excellent horse for business, and a large bay horse called Nick, and a splendid gray horse called Peacock. Mr. Nye had also two sorrel horses called Bill and John, good horses for business—the chestnut sorrel (John) a very spirited high-life horse. The horses carrying the mail were driven in a very abusive manner—harder than, he should think, any horse, wagon, or harness could stand. In the fall, in the absence of Walker & Kimmell, he (Willett) hired William Sprigg a very fine, beautiful mare to ride to Bladensburg. When he returned, he was very much intoxicated. He injured the mare so, that she died soon after getting her home.

*Cross-examined.* Peacock had good eyes; could see well.

V. WILLETT.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, *District of Columbia, ss:*

On this 14th day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared V. Willett, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that the above statements are true and correct, and, he believes, a correct transcript of the testimony given by him before the Committee of Accounts during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

T. C. DONN, *J. P.* [SEAL.]

Mr. J. W. Robinson sworn:

As soon as Congress adjourned last summer, I hired a horse and carryall of Mr. Nye (one of those used at the Capitol) to go into the country; was gone some six or eight weeks; drove some eighty or one hundred miles; never less than three grown persons in carryall at a time; found it a good, strong carryall; was out in some heavy rains—did not leak; the horse a large one—I believe a bay; he was a good, faithful horse.

JOHN W. ROBINSON.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, *District of Columbia*, ss :

On this 12th day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared J. W. Robinson, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith that the above statements are just and true, and, he believes, a true transcript of the testimony given by him before the Committee of Accounts during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

HENRY HOWISON, *J. P.* [SEAL.]

WASHINGTON, *January 18, 1847.*

DEAR SIR: Will you have the goodness to answer the following questions, according to the best of your recollection?

1. Did you, as a member of the Committee of Accounts, in an investigation before said committee between Nye and Johnson, concerning the manner in which Nye performed his part of the contract for furnishing horses and carryalls, and doing the hauling for the House of Representatives, take notes of the witnesses' testimony before said committee?

2. Was there any testimony before said committee to show that there had been any fault or neglect on the part of said Nye?

3. Did you, as a member of said committee, in company with the other members of the committee, see and examine the property furnished by Nye, after it had been dismissed by Johnson? And if so, what was the condition of the property? Were not the horses, carryalls, and harness good ones, in good order, and amply sufficient for the business?

4. Did not Mr. Johnson make the charge against Mr. Nye that what caused the first difficulty between him and Mr. Nye was, that Nye purchased all his feed for his horses on a month's credit, promising to pay when the money was drawn from the Capitol; that when it was drawn, Nye refused to pay them; that they warranted him, and that he set them at defiance?

5. Did you not understand Johnson to ground his defence of taking away this contract from Nye on the dishonest conduct of Nye?

6. Do you recollect that on the last day on which any testimony was taken before said committee, the rest of the committee left the committee room to attend the session of the House, and left yourself to complete taking the testimony? and that Nye brought forward a gentleman by the name of White to prove my character for honesty and integrity; and that the committee refused to let him be sworn, as my character had nothing to do with the contract? Also, at the close of Mr. Smallwood's testimony, I informed the committee that I should fetch forward respectable testimony to impeach Smallwood's testimony for truth and veracity? To which, Johnson told the committee that they might strike out Smallwood's testimony altogether?

7. Will you examine the testimony of Messrs. Hon. Gen. McDowell, Hill, Kimmell, Bowen, Batson, Willett, Rock, Norman W. Nye, Mattingly, Robinson, Henry, Owner, Kendall, Laphen, Wailes, Stewart, and Peck, herewith presented, and state whether it agrees with your recollection of the testimony given by them before said committee?

8. Did not Nye protest to said committee against the admission of the



testimony of Johnson's messengers, they having a *direct* interest in the result of the investigation and decision of said committee, which protest was overruled by the majority of said committee? And were not Nye's witnesses, before they were allowed to be examined in chief, *strictly* interrogated by said committee whether they had any interest in this contract, or whether Mr. Nye was not *in debt* to them?

Your early answer to the above interrogatories, so as to send it to me by the bearer of this, will be of essential service to me, and will much oblige

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. W. NYE.

Hon. Mr. RODNEY.

*Answers.*

In answer to the accompanying interrogatories from Mr. Nye, I have to say :

To the 1st question. That I was a member of the Committee of Accounts in the 28th Congress, and upon the investigation of the matter submitted by Mr. Nye and Mr. Johnson I took down the testimony of the several witnesses as a member of the committee.

To the 2d. I think there was some testimony offered of complaint having been made to Mr. Nye, or his assistants, of the insufficiency of his carriages, and harness, and horses.

To the 3d. The committee went out to look at the stock used by Mr. Nye, and my recollection is that it was thought sufficiently good.

To the 4th. I think Mr. Johnson did make the matter stated in this question as one of the charges against Mr. Nye.

To the 5th. I cannot say that Johnson *rested* his justification for taking away the contract from Nye on the matter mentioned in this question.

To the 6th. I think what is stated in this question is substantially correct.

To the 7th. I cannot pretend to say whether the testimony exhibited by Mr. Nye of the different witnesses is the same as taken by the committee; but as that testimony exists among the records of the Committee of Accounts, refer to that as the best evidence.

To the 8th. Nye did object to the messengers employed by Johnson as competent witnesses, and I think it was overruled; and some at least of Nye's witnesses were asked whether Nye was indebted to them.

GEO. B. RODNEY.

NEWCASTLE, DEL., *January 20, 1847.*

PHILADELPHIA, *January 19, 1847.*

SIR: In answer to your request for me to state my recollection of a conversation that took place in the Capitol, during the second session of the twenty-eighth Congress, between John M. Johnson, postmaster to the House of Representatives, and myself, in regard to yourself, I hereby certify that I was called on as a witness in a controversy between you and him, then pending before the Committee of Accounts. I was called on as a witness to prove your character for honesty and integrity; but the committee did not consent to have me sworn, as they said your *character* had nothing to do with the contract. I left the committee room in company with Mr.

Johnson. In front of the door which leads into the hall of the House of Representatives Mr. Johnson and myself had a conversation in regard to yourself. Mr. Johnson informed me that the first that caused any hostility between himself and Nye was, that Nye purchased his feed for his horses on a month's credit, promising to pay when the money was drawn from the Capitol; that when it was drawn he refused to pay. They warranted him, and he set them at defiance. To which you (being present) replied that it was a LIE. At which Johnson, in a great passion, called for the watch to arrest you for the insult. I think there were a number of gentlemen in hearing at the time.

Respectfully, yours,

W. G. W. WHITE.

Mr. NYE.

Mr. Henry sworn, (for Johnson:)

Commenced driving about the 11th or 12th of January; took the place of William Sprigg; Sprigg drove occasionally for Smallwood during the session. He was so flurried when he commenced, he paid no attention to the property; could not say what condition it was in. The first horses he used were not the ponies; the one was a bay, the other a sorrel or a brown; frequently used two horses in a day on the Georgetown route; one in forenoon, the other in the afternoon; drove on that route but a short time, and then changed with Kendall. Mr. Nye was very kind in assisting in carrying their mail and in learning them their routes. Once last session, in going to the post office with a heavy load, broke an axle; used (the latter part of the session) to carry one hundred bushels of documents per day to the post office; used to carry very heavy loads; pressed the springs clear down; sometimes, from a jolt, would throw him two feet high; this session his horse was in better order and more lively than at the last; Smallwood's he thought was not in *quite* as good order; his carryall was tight—did not leak; harness and carryall not quite as good as they might have been; but could get along with them very well. The traces, fastened on to the swingle-tree by slipping over the end of an iron, would sometimes slip off. When he informed Mr. Nye thereof he immediately put on a new swingle-tree, from which the traces did not slip off any more; but the next night, by the nut coming off of the bolt which holds the swingle-tree to the cross-bar, the swingle-tree came off and hit the horse's heels, and one of the hold-back straps being unbuckled, the horse ran away with him; used frequently to find his hold back straps unfastened when going out of the yard.

*Cross-examined.* Never complained to Mr. Nye. Mr. Nye had been so kind to him, he did not feel willing to complain. When he informed Mr. Nye of his trouble with the swingle-tree, he had another immediately made. Since Mr. Nye's property has been dismissed, the messengers furnish the horses and carryalls themselves, at one dollar and fifty cents each per day, for which they pay Lee one dollar per day for each horse and carryall, Lee feeding and taking care of the horses himself. Each messenger receives fifty cents per day, free from expense, as long as they keep Lee's horses to do the work. The horse of Lee's which he now drives is lame; never heard Mr. Nye use any disrespectful language to Mr. Johnson, or any one in the office; horse and carryall sent to my boarding house in good season in the morning—frequently before I was up.

Mr. Wailes sworn, (for Johnson :)

Is no judge of the property. Last session heard a great deal of complaint about the horse driven by Mr. Kendall. He was a very fine-looking horse. The first month last session Mr. Nye was very attentive. The latter part of the time did not see him much about the Capitol.

Mr. Owner sworn, (for Johnson :)

Last session horse and carryall very bad ; leaked so bad ; the body got full of water ; had to bore a hole through the bottom to let the water out ; no better this session. One axle broke and a wheel came off this session. Considers the gray horse a dangerous horse.

Mr. Laphen sworn, (for Johnson :)

I commenced driving the week before the meeting of Congress this session. The first day Mr. Nye sent up a very spirited horse ; I was advised not to drive him ; broke both shafts in the yard. The next day sent up another horse ; I drove him one week ; he was a very miserable horse ; I bought four new cowhides, and wore them up about him. Next day sent up a better horse ; worked him a few days. Then sent a long-tailed bay, they called Charley ; he was good for nothing ; would not go at all ; turned over the carryall. He then sent a bob-tailed bay ; a very good horse. I was not accustomed to horses ; had never driven any before. Broke one axle ; wheel came off five times by linchpin coming out ; never drove but once without a linchpin ; got one linchpin made, and paid for it myself. Carryall leaked all over. The other carryalls in the same condition as the one I drove. Frequently complained to Mr. Nye of the property. The ponies were in fine order, and worked well.

*Cross-examined.* Never said any thing to Mr. Nye about the property, but complained to his son, which was the same thing. The horse of Lee's I now drive is lame.

Mr. Sweeny sworn, (for Johnson :)

Have been driving for Smallwood since Sprigg was dismissed. Property in bad condition ; ponies very slow and very poor.

*Cross-examined.* Never informed Mr. Nye.

Mr. Peck sworn, (for Johnson :)

Have frequently noticed the messengers carrying the mail last session driving Nye's horses and carryalls with the shafts dragging on the ground. The horses, carryalls, and harness were all in a very bad condition. During the recess of Congress last season I wanted to carry my wife and children into the country. Mr. Nye was owing me ; and as he was rather slow in paying, I agreed with him for one of his horses and carryalls to go with, in order to get my pay that way. He sent one round, but it looked so bad I was ashamed to ride in it ; I was too proud. I had rather lose the debt. The curtains were torn and tattered all to pieces.

Mr. Kendall sworn, (for Johnson :)

Commenced driving some time in January, last session. Carryall curtains needed painting. One time a hame string broke ; another time a trace came off. One horse, a sorrel, slow and poor—a large gray horse, nearly blind ; did not consider him safe to drive. Sent Mr. Nye word that he must put on a better horse. The next day he put on a good horse, which

continued to perform well until close of session. (A letter shown, complaining of property.) Gave Mr. Nye the letter of which this is a copy. Carryall was broken a number of times during the session. Once or twice could not find Mr. Nye when we wanted hauling done.

*Cross-examined.* Always found a horse and cart at the stables to do the hauling, and a person to drive, when I called there. Did *not* give the above-named letter to Mr. Nye; carried it in my pocket two days; but not seeing him, gave it to Mr. Rock. One time stopped a short time after having distributed the mail, and left the horse and carryall without hitching, and when I came out he was gone, and was not found until next day; carryall broken. Sometimes it was very late when I came in.

Mr. C. Stewart affirmed, (for Johnson;) conscientious scruples against taking an oath:

Horses thin; did not consider the wagons good; heard a great deal of complaint from the messengers. From the numerous complaints, he would have taken away the contract had he been in Johnson's place. Did not hear much complaint last year. Heard Nye say Johnson could not take away the contract.

—  
WASHINGTON, January 22, 1847.

DEAR SIR: Will you have the goodness to answer the following interrogatories, at the earliest convenient opportunity?

1. Are you acquainted with Mr. Frederick Follet, esq., of Batavia, Genesee county, New York, and Hon. John B. Skinner, of Middlebury, Wyoming county, New York, one of the circuit judges? Also please state their standing in society; their character for integrity and honor; and whether the fullest confidence can be placed in any statements made by them, for truth and veracity.

2. Did you in 1840, as chairman of the central county committee of Allegany county, receive from J. W. Nye a letter of recommendation from the aforesaid gentlemen, recommending him to the chairmen of the central county committees of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauque, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, and Genesee counties, as a man of honor and integrity, with whom they were well acquainted, having formerly resided among them, and that with *them* he had their *fullest* confidence?

Your answer to the above will much oblige your most obedient, humble servant,

J. W. NYE.

HON. MR. MARTIN GROVER,

M. C. from Allegany county, N. Y.

*Answers.*

1. I am acquainted with the gentlemen above named; their character is of the best; their integrity above suspicion.

2. I did receive such a circular at the time and of the character above stated.

Yours truly,

MARTIN GROVER.

J. W. NYE, Esq.



OFFICE HOUSE OF REPS. U. S.,

February 7, 1846.

Upon examination of the books of this office I find that there was paid for hauling for the year 1843, \$238.

The amount paid for hauling for the year 1844 was \$99, which amount was paid to John Lee.

J. EDMUND MILLARD.

WASHINGTON, January 22, 1847.

I hereby certify that I have been personally acquainted with Mr. J. W. Nye for a number of years past, and that during the last two years, from severe sickness of himself and family, and other misfortunes, he has been in the most straitened circumstances, and that he has had the utmost difficulty in providing a bare subsistence for himself and family. I have frequently known him to be compelled to pawn the only decent coat he possessed, and any other articles in his possession on which he could raise any money, in order to supply his family with provisions.

WM. HENRY UPPERMAN.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, }  
District of Columbia, } ss.

On this 25th day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Norman W. Nye, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelry of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that during the first session of the twenty-eighth Congress his father, J. W. Nye, kept a horse and cart expressly for the use of the House of Representatives, to haul boxes and any other articles that might be wanted by said house, and a person ready at all times to attend to the same; that the greater share of the hauling was done by him and Andrew Rock; that he used generally to go to the Capitol every day to see if there was any hauling to be done; that he used frequently to be called on to remove boxes where members changed boarding houses during the session; also, in taking boxes from their boarding-houses to the Capitol, and from the Capitol to their boarding-houses, and from their boarding-houses and the Capitol to the steamboat, and to the railroad depot; that those which he assisted in carrying, and knew of being carried, to and from the above named places, could not, in his estimation, fall much short of one hundred dollars; that he likewise knew of a very large number being carried to Georgetown, but that he did not attend to them as strictly as he did those in the city; that he cannot, therefore, form as correct an opinion of their amount as of those in the city; that he and Andrew used to give Mr. Nye an account every night, or in the morning, of the number they had drawn during the day, and that he used to set it down in a book in which he kept his hack accounts; that some time after the adjournment of Congress his father's family moved into the country, and that his father and almost the whole family were prostrated with severe sickness, which continued during a long time; that when his father moved into the country he left his desk

containing his books, papers, and accounts, at his carriage-house; that during their sickness the desk was broken open, and many things taken therefrom; and that he heard his father complain that his book containing his hack account and his hauling was taken; and that a large unsettled hack account against Mr. Briscoe he was unable to settle with any accuracy, from the loss of said book.

NORMAN W. NYE.

Given under my hand, the day and year above written.

B. K. MORSELL, J. P.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, *District of Columbia*, ss.:

On this 25th day of January, 1847, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Andrew Rock, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelly of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that during the first session of the twenty-eighth Congress he was employed by Mr. J. W. Nye to attend to the horses and carryalls in the employment of the House of Representatives, and to attend to the hauling of the boxes and other articles wanted by the House. That there was a horse and cart kept through the session expressly to do said hauling, and a person ready to drive the same. That he did a large share of the hauling himself. That he was frequently called on by Mr. Johnson, or those belonging in the post office of the House, to remove boxes where members had changed their boarding-houses during the session. Also to take boxes from their boarding-houses to the Capitol; from the Capitol to their boarding-houses, and from their boarding-houses and the Capitol to the railroad depot, to the steamboat wharf, and to Georgetown. That he took a very large number for the eastern, northern, and western members, to Georgetown; and that, from the best of his judgment, those he carried and assisted in carrying to Georgetown would, at the prices allowed therefor, have amounted to more than forty dollars; and that those which he was knowing to the removing of to the different places in the city could not have fallen much short of one hundred dollars. That he and Mr. Nye's son, Norman W., did the principal share of the hauling; that they always did it immediately when called on by Mr. Johnson or any of his messengers, or by members of Congress. That he used to set down the account of what he had drawn during the day, and give it to Mr. Nye at night, or in the morning when he went to breakfast.

ANDREW ROCK.

Given under my hand and seal, the day and year above written.

HENRY HOWISON, J. P. [SEAL.]

WASHINGTON CITY, February 9, 1846.

I hereby certify, that during the first session of the twenty-eighth Congress I was employed as assistant postmaster for the House of Representatives, and that I frequently called on Nye, or the man in his employ, to haul boxes, &c., for members. To the best of recollection, I always found a horse and cart ready. I inquired of the man whether they kept a horse

and cart expressly for the purpose of doing the hauling for the House; he informed me that they did. Mr. Nye, his son, or the man he had employed to attend to his horse, &c., were in the habit of calling at the office daily to know whether there was any hauling to do; as there was no account kept of the hauling in the office, and as much of it was done for the members without my knowledge, I am not prepared to say what amount of hauling was done either by Nye or Lee.

MICHAEL HILL.

*Post Office Department House of Representatives to J. W. Nye, Dr.*

From January 5, 1844, to December 1, 1844.—To hauling boxes from shop to Capitol and to the members' boarding-houses, and from boarding-houses to Capitol; to railroad depot; from one boarding-house to another; to the steamboat wharf, and to Georgetown, at one dollar per load to Georgetown, and fifty cents per load within the limits of Washington - \$131 00  
To four loads chairs and other articles, at fifty cents per load - 2 00  
To one box for Hon. Mr. Lyon, of Michigan - 1 50  

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134 50  
CR.

By cash allowed by Committee of Accounts, on hauling boxes - \$40 00  
On other hauling - 2 00  
On box for Hon. Mr. Lyon - 1 50  

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43 50  
Balance now due - 91 00

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *Washington county, sct:*

On this 5th day of February, 1846, before the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Jonas W. Nye, and made oath on the Holy Evangel of Almighty God that the within account, as stated, is just and true, to the best of his knowledge and belief, and that he hath not directly or indirectly received any part, parcel, security, or other satisfaction for the same, more than the several and respective credits therein given.

Sworn before

B. K. MORSELL, J. P.

In July, 1844, I made out my bill for hauling from the account in my book, as given in to me by Andrew and Norman at the time the work was performed, as sworn to by them in the accompanying affidavits. In that bill the number carried to Georgetown was set down separate and distinct from those delivered in the city, and the number of those delivered in the city separate and distinct by themselves. When I presented the account to

the Committee of Accounts, Mr. Johnson informed them that he had not kept any account of the hauling, but that what I had done could not amount to more than one-fourth of what I had charged; but that they might allow me forty dollars, to which they consented. But I utterly refused to receive it, and requested the withdrawal of my account, which they refused to grant. I informed them that I had, since drawing off that account, lost my book containing those accounts, and that this bill was all the evidence I had left thereof. They promised to give me a copy of said account, and that if I would take that amount it should not prevent a re-examination and settlement thereof. I have never been able *yet* to obtain any examination thereof since, or any copy of said account; and in making out this account I have been compelled to do it from a knowledge of the amount, without being able to specify the particular number delivered at each place respectively.

J. W. NYE.

WASHINGTON, *December 30, 1845.*

I have known Mr. J. W. Nye for several years, and from all that I can learn of his character, from sources entitled to the utmost reliance, it is excellent for integrity and honesty. Mr. Nye is a man of intelligence; and the late Mr. F. S. Key, who had much dealing with him, I have heard frequently speak of him in warm terms of interest and of friendship.

JAMES HOBAN.

WASHINGTON, *December 15, 1845.*

We have been personally acquainted with Mr. J. W. Nye during the last fourteen years, and during that time have had dealings with him to the amount of several thousand dollars. In 1832-'3 he became deeply involved in consequence of doing a large amount of work on Pennsylvania avenue, and not getting his pay therefor. At the close of that work he raised from us a considerable amount to pay his laborers on said work, and gave us for security a mortgage of his furniture and some other property. During the following year his house and all his effects were consumed by fire, which left us without security, and himself destitute of any means of payment. Some six or seven years after, he obtained an appropriation from Congress. He immediately called on us and paid us the full amount of his indebtedness, both principal and interest, and we were informed that he looked up all his old debts for doing that work, (though barred by the statute of limitations,) and paid them in full, both principal and interest. In all our dealings with Mr. Nye we have found him honest and honorable. Mr. Nye is a person of good education, and of the most persevering and industrious business habits, and we cheerfully recommend him to the favorable notice of any person or persons to whom he may apply for business, confident that he would discharge any duties he might engage in with the strictest fidelity. At present, from sickness of himself and family, and other severe misfortunes, Mr. Nye is utterly destitute of any means of supporting himself, and a large family of small children, except the labor of his hands.

W. G. W. WHITE & BROTHER.



WASHINGTON, *December 19, 1845.*

I hereby certify that I have been personally acquainted with J. W. Nye during the last fourteen years. During the years 1832-'3, while performing a large amount of work on Pennsylvania avenue, he became indebted to me to a large amount, which, when he completed said work, from not getting his pay therefor, he was unable to pay. A number of years afterwards he obtained an appropriation from Congress, when he immediately called on me and paid me the whole amount of his indebtedness to me, both principal and interest, though barred by the statute of limitations. In all my dealings and intercourse with Mr. Nye, I have found him strictly honest and honorable, as far as he has had the means to do with.

WILLIAM BIRD.

WASHINGTON CITY, *December 17, 1845.*

We hereby certify that we have been personally acquainted with J. W. Nye, and, during the last five years, have had dealings with him to the amount of over three thousand dollars, and we have found him strictly honest and honorable in all his dealings, as far as he has had the means to do. During the period above named he has met with some severe misfortunes, which have placed him in very embarrassed circumstances; but during the whole of our acquaintance we have not known him guilty of a dishonorable act. Mr. Nye is a person of the most persevering industry, of strict veracity and integrity, and has an excellent education, and we cheerfully recommend him to any person to whom he may apply for business, fully confident he would execute to the entire satisfaction of his employers any trust he might engage in.

WALKER &amp; KIMMELL.

WASHINGTON, *December 19, 1845.*

I have been acquainted with Mr. J. W. Nye for several years; he is a man of good education and of persevering and industrious habits, and has enjoyed a high character for integrity: he has been waiting the final action of Congress upon a claim for damage and losses sustained under a contract for paving the Pennsylvania avenue, being reduced in the mean time, from the procrastination attending it, and sickness in his family, to great pecuniary distress. He is competent to the performance of all the duties of a clerk or accountant, and would, I have no doubt, give full satisfaction to those who might employ him as such.

CHAS. J. NOURSE.

WASHINGTON, *December 23, 1845.*

SIR: Having known Mr. J. W. Nye for more than ten years past, I can truly say that I know him well, and can recommend him as an honest and upright man in all his dealings with me, and, as far as I know, honorable in all his transactions with others; though he certainly has had it in his

power to act otherwise with perfect impunity and self-aggrandizement in many instances, when he was not bound by law to be just in money matters.

I likewise think him intelligent, and competent to fill a clerkship, and remarkably ready in his conceptions, and quick to take the ideas of others; and as for his own, nobody can doubt his ability to express them most fluently.

I therefore could recommend him, where confidence was required of one so employed.

With respect,

M. SHANKS.

BALTIMORE, *December 29, 1845.*

I have known Mr. J. W. Nye since the year 1829, when he was employed by myself and others as teacher of the Three Springs Academy, Frederick county, Maryland, where he gave general satisfaction. He left us and engaged on the public works; since which he has met with losses and misfortune. He was in 1829 a thoroughgoing democrat; and, as far as I have understood, he has continued such to the present time.

Very respectfully, yours,

S. R. WATERS.

WASHINGTON, *December 20, 1845.*

I have known J. W. Nye for some years. He has been very unfortunate in his circumstances, but was very correct and strictly honorable in his dealings, as far as I have heard. I employed him for a few months, at which time I know he was utterly destitute of any means of support.

I found him perfectly trustworthy, very persevering and industrious; and, from what I then saw, I would place perfect confidence in him.

FRANCIS A. DICKINS.

The undersigned fully concurs in what Mr. Dickins says of Mr. Nye, and most earnestly recommends him for an appointment under the government.

C. L. COLTMAN.

DECEMBER 22, 1845.

OFFERS FOR CARRYING THE UNITED STATES MAIL

LETTER

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, WASH.

A copy of the abstract of offers for carrying the mails of the United States for the year preceding the 1st of July, 1847, is herewith transmitted to the Hon. the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in compliance with the provisions of the act of the 24th July, 1846, to change the organization of this department, I have the honor to transmit herewith, as follows:

1. A copy of the abstract of the offers for carrying the mails within the year preceding the 1st of July, 1846.

2. A report of all contracts made for the transportation of the mail, within the year aforesaid.

3. A statement of all lands and water mail as have been established or ordered within said year.

4. A statement of all contracts made for mail contractors, within the said year.

5. A report of curtailments of mail service and pay ordered within the said year.

6. A report of fines imposed, and deductions made from the pay of contractors, within the same time.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
C. JOHNSON,

Postmaster General.

Hon. JOHN W. DAVIS,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

